

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
JUNE 18, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Drew Satariano, President, at 9:08 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**Present:** Drew Satariano, President  
Brett Waterfield, Vice President  
Simon George  
Harry Saltzgaver  
Sarah Sangmeister

**Absent:** Albert Guerra, excused

**Staff:** Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Ramon Arevalo, Manager, Maintenance Operations  
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Planning and Development  
JC Squires, Manager of Business Operations  
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, Manager, Community Recreation Services  
Gladys Kaiser, General Superintendent, Community Recreation Services  
Marc Gutfeld, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services  
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer, Planning and Development  
Ken Campbell, Personnel and Training Officer  
Bill Greco, Chief Park Ranger  
Tony Rosales, Maintenance Operations  
Tristina Meche, Department Safety Officer  
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

**Guests:** Spencer Evans, Eagle Project  
Jill Brennan, Citizen Parks Advocate  
Mary Parsell, El Dorado Audubon Society

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to excuse the absence of Commissioner Albert Guerra. The motion carried unanimously.**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 21, 2009**

**It was moved by Commissioner George and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the May 21, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

**III. RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE**

Ms. Tristina Meche introduced Tony Rosales and explained the circumstances of how he saved the life of an Azteca contract employee. She stated that the American Red Cross has nominated Mr. Rosales for the Home Town Hero award for the area and the Fire Department has also complemented Mr. Rosales. She said he did an extraordinary deed that day. She said that Mr. Rosales is certified in CPR and AED training, which is free to all Department employees.

**IV. EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION BY SPENCER EVANS**

Mr. Spencer Evans explained his Eagle Scout project, which is a planet walk in El Dorado East Regional Park, by the archery range. He said that he and other scouts would be painting the eight planets on the sidewalk, spaced proportionally according to their location in the solar system. He said they would also install three or four signs along the path with information on the planets. He said he would be asking local businesses for donations to complete the project and that Maintenance Operations would be installing the signs. This should take place possibly the end of July or early August.

Mr. Hester said that it was too bad that Commissioner Guerra was not in attendance today, but perhaps Spencer could come back to the Commission when the project is complete.

**V. SEA FESTIVAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. John Parks gave a PowerPoint presentation while explaining Sea Festival. He discussed the marketing plan, the various events, movies, concerts, and sporting events, so many of which are free. He said that he would get a calendar of this year's events to the Commissioners.

**VI. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU PRESENTATION**

Ms. Sandra Gonzalez introduced her staff, gave a PowerPoint presentation, and an overview of the Planning and Development Bureau. She said the main goals of the bureau are to look for new park areas or new locations, expand current parks, look for funding opportunities, develop capital facilities, and renovate existing buildings.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the County has just let the contract for the Termino Avenue Storm Drain Project. He asked if staff was communicating with the County on that and do we have any money to upgrade the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way?

Ms. Gonzalez said that staff is involved in that project and attending the meetings. She said she would defer to Anna Mendiola.

Ms. Anna Mendiola said the bids are opening for the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way on 6<sup>th</sup> District today. We are searching for funding or grants.

Mr. Hester stated that the community wants different things in the Right-of-Way, so the Department would need to meet with the community on that and start the planning process.

**VII. SUMMER PROGRAMS PRESENTATION**

Ms. Sherri Nixon-Joiner distributed packets of the Department's summer programs and a calendar for July is Parks and Recreation Month. She said that the number of kids attending the free programs has increased. The day camp numbers are down, because people can't afford to pay the fees. She said that a lot of the school sites would be closed this summer, so kids would be coming to the park sites for free programs and for free summer food program lunches.

Commissioner Sangmeister asked if Long Beach Unified School District communicated to the Department that they would not have free programs this summer.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner responded that staff read it in the newspaper.

Mr. Hester mentioned that at the July 7 City Council meeting, the Mayor would be presenting a proclamation to the Department for July is Parks and Recreation Month.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner stated that the paid programs have lower attendance this year than they have had in the past.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner said that Juneteenth took place last Saturday, and it was a wonderful event.

## **VIII. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS**

### **#09-0601**

Recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.

**It was moved by Commissioner Sangmeister and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **#09-0602**

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench on the greenbelt in Basin 4 of the Alamitos Bay Marina, in memory of Harry Bolton.

**It was moved by Vice President Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **#09-0603**

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench between gangways 38A – 38B, overlooking the water in Basin 4 in the in the Alamitos Bay Marina, in memory of Genevieve Grace Owens.

**It was moved by Commissioner Sangmeister and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **#09-0604**

Recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench before the tee-off for the 6<sup>th</sup> hole at Recreation Park 9-Hole Golf Course, in memory of Gail Moreno.

Mr. Hester said that this is the first time a memorial bench is to be placed on a golf course.

President Satariano said that Bob Livingstone is looking into a policy for memorial benches on all the golf courses.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Sangmeister asked if there should be a fee included for bench maintenance?

Mr. Hester responded that there is a differential already included in the price for damage, etc. That money sits in a special restricted account with Partners of Parks.

Commissioner Sangmeister asked if there should be a memorial bench plan or policy?

Mr. Hester responded that staff has discussed creating a policy. At this, there is no problem with too many benches.

#### **#09-0605**

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents to enter into an agreement with the County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services Area Agency on Aging for the continuation of the Senior Community Services Employment Program at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 1150 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Beach, for a term of three years, ending on June 30, 2012.

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that last month the Commission approved an agreement with St. Mary's Medical Center to run the new clinic at the Senior Center. He attempted to talk to St. Mary's about this new clinic and they said that the agreement hasn't been signed yet. He would like an update on the status of this clinic.

Mr. Squires responded that he spoke with the CEO of the hospital the day before yesterday and the agreement is with their legal department. The CEO is driving the project.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked that staff keep him updated on this project.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

**IX. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

**A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

**1) Selection of 2009-2010 Officers**

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that he and Commissioner Guerra met and decided to recommend that Drew Satariano be nominated as President for a second year and Brett Waterfield as Vice President.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner George to approve Drew Satariano as President and Brett Waterfield as Vice President for a second year. The motion carried unanimously.**

President Satariano asked the Commissioners to get back to him regarding their Committee appointments and put that on the July agenda.

**B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**  
President Satariano, Chair

President Satariano said that the report was included in the packet. The fee hearing is scheduled for July 23, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Saltzgaver will not be able to attend that meeting.

Mr. Hester said that staff would be contacting the youth organizations that would be affected, which was done last year.

Mr. Squires discussed the budget dates. At this time, the Department is able to maintain a level of recreation programs and maintenance that resembles historic services to the community.

Mr. Hester said that management staff has continued to meet every other week to look at opportunities and way to be more efficient and look at new revenue opportunities and new programs. The Department is also looking at organizational changes.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if the Committee could meet to discuss the budget or set some time on the next Commission agenda to discuss the budget.

Mr. Squires responded that he would get the Commissioners copies of the Department's budget pages and meet before the next Commission meeting.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Saltzgaver, Chair

Commissioner Saltzgaver said that the Committee did not meet. The Commission received communications during the month about the surveillance cameras and the Park Watch program. The incident statistics are included in the packet.

Mr. Bill Greco said that there are a few events taking place at the Regional Park this weekend. The KLOS Pet Adoption Day at the ASPCA facilities, the Disc Golf Tournament, and the National Archery Tournament for Adults. The park is very busy.

Commissioner Saltzgaver suggested that the Department publicize the Park Watch program, when we are ready with the program.

D. MARKETING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Sangmeister said that the Committee met this morning and discussed the Department's new publications, the *Family Entertainment Guide* and the *Youth and Teen Programs* brochures. They are also going back from three to four class schedules a year and are also looking at Tweeting and advertising on Facebook.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
Vice President Waterfield, Chair

Vice President Waterfield said that the Committee has not met.

F. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

President Satariano said that he attended the meeting and that the Committee would not meet in July or August. They normally meet monthly. Things are going well.

X. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. Recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for May 2009.

President Satariano stated that a photo from the Homeland Cultural Center groundbreaking is on the cover. All the money for this project is coming from grants.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner added that the project is also hiring workers from the local community.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.**

XI. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Satariano said that there was no correspondence.

XII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Satariano said that there was no unfinished business.

XIII **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recommendation to approve the pilot program for serving and consuming alcohol in City parks under specific conditions and recommend the City Council to approve the pilot program with a request that the City Attorney amend the Municipal Code in accordance with the pilot program.

Mr. Hester said that this came as a result from the management meetings that we have had in looking at new revenue opportunities



in the particular area of special events. We currently do allow alcohol in some of our facilities. Special Events and Filming currently has the authority to allow alcohol on public property and in City facilities along the beaches. The ordinance does not currently allow them to do so in parks, unless it is in specific facilities such as Blair Field, at the golf courses and at the ranchos. After a lot of work by staff, the recommendation is to start a pilot program under specific guidelines to take advantage of some events that would like to be able to use some of our facilities. This does not open up everyone to bring alcohol into the parks. Due to the proposed guidelines, there will only be a few organizations that would want to take advantage of something like this. These guidelines are consistent with those currently in place with the Office of Special Events and Filming. We don't yet know what the revenue implications will be, but we are trying to look at revenue that would help save Department programs.

Mr. Dave Ashman said that the Department is actively involved with special events and their challenges already. He went over the outlined plan. He said that many cities currently have restricted alcohol programs. Mr. Ashman described the restrictions on the proposed guidelines, which are for selected parks and selected community facilities. He said that these guidelines address the locations, the hours alcohol would be served, the need for visible law enforcement, the need to have occupancy guidelines and restrictions, the need for food service, the need for activities, the need for adequate parking, the need for perimeter control, the need for enough restroom facilities, the need to be away from a perimeter of a park and away from the neighborhood, and the need for appropriate events. He described appropriate and inappropriate events.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if the revenue would come back to the Department?

Mr. Hester said that in this particular program, the proposal is that events would not be permitted through the reservation office. The events would be permitted by the Office of Special Events and Filming and the money would go into that account. Currently, that bureau's budget funds a number of City events such as all the parades and part of the Municipal Band.

Mr. Squires said that approved catering vendors would need to be used, that have been previously licensed and approved by the City through a request for proposals. Part of their revenue would come back to the City also.

Mr. Ashman said that one of the requirements was that the Special Events and Filming Bureau capture the expenses incurred by the operator for maintenance and recreation and to put that money back into the park.

Mr. Squires said that the Department would need to negotiate with the Financial Management Department and the City Manager as the new revenue is identified.

Ms. Jill Brennan stated that she is a member of the Sustainability Commission and is a citizen of Long Beach and has a concern as a private citizen. In talking about a good fit, in looking at a 600-acre park, how well could that be contained? I am concerned that we don't have adequate restrooms, that we don't have the adequate parking, and we are severely understaffed. I know there will be security provided at the events, but, because of the size of the park, it is going to spill over into the general park. I am concerned with the safety of children, adults, bikers, and wildlife. When you have people who have been drinking, drive along narrow, curvy roads. The parks are overwhelmed right now. The roadways are in disrepair and we are bringing big trucks in for events. This all needs to be addressed. It concerns me about what will be coming back to the City and also consider the cost to the wildlife and the damage to the turf and the noise pollution. I might suggest, is if this is going to be a pilot program, to carve out an area so there is not a spillover. I am supposing the liability will be covered but I think the City is the second or third for liability if a drunk driver would kill someone. That is a concern. Some cities are banning smoking in parks or on the beaches. In Long Beach we are now serving alcohol. She thanked the Commission for their time.

Ms. Mary Parsell said that she represents El Dorado Audubon. She said that she understands that the Department is trying to bring in revenue and have some control and bring it back to the Department. The first thing that people will say is that the money goes back into the general fund and it never comes back to the Department. There are problems all over because of the lack of rangers. I think that doing what the Office of Special Events

already does, bringing in police officers and private security, is a good idea. That is a big improvement over an event like a big reunion and there is no security. The event is going to have to go through strict regulations. That is a good thing. If we could make sure that some of this revenue comes back to the park, I would encourage that. El Dorado Park was never finished and there are some things that need to be done. This park is a resource for everyone. I think the Department does a good job in working with us as well as the community.

Vice President Waterfield said that it is important to understand that this is a pilot program and is taking steps, not going full forward.

Mr. Hester thanked Ms. Brennan, Ms. Parsell, and Ms. Ann Cantrell for meeting with staff yesterday to discuss this program. We want to make sure we are going in with our eyes wide open, that's why we are proposing a pilot program. We don't have control over a picnic group, but we would have better control with this permit process. They would have to bring in restrooms and have a parking plan. It would also put pressure on the Department to revisit the permitting process and the sizes of the groups. The specific sites mentioned were proposed because they are either indoor facilities or have controllable areas. They don't have the challenges that Mr. Ashman mentioned. The guidelines are very conservative.

**It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Vice President Waterfield to approve the recommendation, with the understanding that any revenues go back to the Department as new revenue. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **XIV. COMMENTS**

##### **A. AUDIENCE**

President Satariano asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Parsell said that the Commission is invited to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the El Dorado Audubon tonight at the Nature Center at 7:30 p.m. We are giving two conservation awards. One to Councilmember O'Donnell and one to Councilwoman Schipske. Our speaker is Glen Oldman, who is the Executive Director of

Audubon California. I have known him for 25 years. He is now moving on to a position with the National Audubon Society. Phil Peterson, the first director of the Nature Center and one of the founders of El Dorado Audubon, will be there also.

B. STAFF

President Satariano asked for comments from the staff.

Ms. Nixon-Joiner reminded everyone of the events listed in the packets given to the Commissioners.

Mr. Squires said that the City now has furloughs on the last Friday of the month. On July 31<sup>st</sup>, we will shut down for the day and staff has gotten together to plan their own beach bash. All the employees and their families will be coming to Mothers' Beach that day. This is not a work event and is not a City event. It is funded by the employees themselves. We would like to invite the Commissioners and their families as well.

Mr. Ramon Arevalo said that he has some sad news. One of our employees who has been with us since 1977, passed away suddenly at home. His name is Dennis Williams and he worked in the Marine Maintenance Division.

Ms. Gladys Kaiser said that the summer day camps have started on Monday. There are lots of kids at the programs. With the movies, concerts, Municipal Band, summer food, we are off and running.

Mr. Ken Campbell said that last year we did such a great job of hiring last summer, bringing in almost 300 new employees, that we didn't need to bring anyone in this summer.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Satariano asked for comments from the Commissioners. There were none.

**XV. NEXT MEETING**

President Satariano stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, July 16, 2009, at El Dorado Park West Community Center, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Rd., Long Beach.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

President Satariano adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black  
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine